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Bills of health were issued to the following-named vessels:

Date.	Vessel.	Number of crew.	Number of passengers from this port.	Number of passengers in transit.	Pieces of baggage disinfected.
Apr. 19	Habil.....	15	6	0	0
19	Julian May.....	6	0	0	0
20	Hiram.....	14	1	0	0
21	Beverly.....	45	5	12	0
22	Bratten.....	15	0	0	0
24	Helen.....	20	9	0	0

Number of aliens sailing during week, 8.

#### INDIA.

#### *Report from Bombay—Progress of plague.*

Acting Assistant Surgeon Edward H. Hume reports, April 14, as follows:

*Summary of plague in Bombay Presidency from June 1, 1903, to February 29, 1904.*

	Cases.	Deaths.
June 1 to December 31, 1903.....	261, 294	193, 199
January, 1904.....	38, 097	28, 701
February, 1904.....	39, 407	29, 515
Total.....	338, 798	251, 415

This shows a very great plague mortality, the number of deaths and attacks for the nine months indicated being greater than the total for twelve months in any year, except last year, since plague began in 1896. It is certain, as usual, that the number of deaths reported is far below the number actually occurring. It is hard enough in cities to determine the cause of death, even with a good corps of inspectors, but in the villages the difficulties must be very great in securing anything like accurate returns.

To show how fearfully plague has hold of the presidency this year it will be worth putting down the annual statements again—up to date.

*Summary of plague in the Bombay Presidency from September, 1896, to February 29, 1904.*

	Number of months.	Cases.	Deaths.
September, 1896, to May 28, 1897.....	9	35, 434	28, 737
May 29, 1897, to May 27, 1898.....	12	75, 813	61, 220
May 28, 1898, to June 2, 1899.....	12	147, 747	115, 083
June 3, 1899, to June 1, 1900.....	12	135, 263	104, 433
June 2, 1900, to May 31, 1901.....	12	56, 101	44, 072
June 1, 1901, to May 31, 1902.....	12	281, 377	206, 740
June 1, 1902, to May 31, 1903.....	12	393, 996	298, 833
June 1, 1903, to February 29, 1904.....	9	338, 798	251, 415
Grand total.....		1, 464, 529	1, 110, 533

Thus it will be seen that the deaths for the nine months ended February 29, 1904, numbering 251,415, far outnumbered the average for

twelve months, namely, 138,397, in the six years when totals for twelve months are recorded. Similarly the average number of attacks for the six years in which twelve-month records are available was 181,716, while in the nine months ended February 29, 1904, the number of attacks was 338,798. The grand totals given show that of those who were attacked 75.83 per cent died. This percentage is about what prevails throughout India, and is the more true because it is based on over a million attacks in the presidency.

Turning now to the progress of plague in Bombay City, it is gratifying to note that the city seems to have passed the height of its epidemic for the winter without approaching at all to the severity seen last year.

*Progress of plague in Bombay City up to February 29, 1904.*

	Number of months.	Cases.	Deaths.
September 1896 to May 28, 1897 .....	9	12,425	10,564
May 29, 1897, to May 27, 1898 .....	12	17,907	16,532
May 28, 1898, to June 2, 1899 .....	12	19,139	15,700
June 3, 1899, to June 1, 1900 .....	12	18,310	13,987
June 2, 1900, to May 31, 1901 .....	12	19,451	16,148
June 1, 1901, to May 31, 1902 .....	12	18,981	16,554
June 1, 1902, to May 31, 1903 .....	12	28,337	20,811
Total .....		129,550	110,296
June 1, 1903, to December 31, 1903 .....	7	2,737	2,422
During January, 1904 .....	1	1,111	956
During February, 1904 .....	1	2,788	479
Total for 9 months .....	9	6,636	5,857
Grand total since 1896 .....		136,186	116,153

Of the total number attacked in the city, 85.29 per cent have died, giving a death rate much higher than that (75.83 per cent) prevailing in the entire Presidency during the same period.

The plague and total mortality have risen steadily, week by week, since the beginning of January, and only during the past week, ended April 12, 1904, has there been any tendency to diminish. This is shown in the following table:

*Weekly summary—January to March, 1904—Bombay City.*

Week of—	Plague attacks.	Plague deaths.	Plague mortality per year.	Total deaths.	Total mortality per year.
Jan. 5 .....	153	125	8.37	728	48.78
12 .....	207	186	12.46	730	48.91
19 .....	211	189	12.66	680	45.56
26 .....	270	281	15.47	763	51.12
Feb. 2 .....	430	364	25.73	917	61.44
9 .....	479	419	28.07	938	62.85
16 .....	602	550	36.85	1,136	76.12
23 .....	837	718	48.15	1,292	86.57
Mar. 1 .....	929	832	55.75	1,420	95.15
8 .....	1,121	968	64.86	1,574	105.47
15 .....	1,011	904	60.57	1,491	99.91
22 .....	925	829	55.55	1,389	93.07
29 .....	1,072	972	65.13	1,531	102.59
Apr. 5 .....	1,281	1,135	76.05	1,785	119.61
12 .....		811	54.34	1,346	90.19

There is every reason to believe that the mortality from plague will now decrease as steadily as it rose through January and February.

The following telegram is just printed in the Times of India, dated Simla, April 15:

The Punjab is in the midst of a terrible plague epidemic. It had over 23,000 deaths last week, being an increase of 4,000 upon the total of the preceding seven days. The worst affected districts are Shahpur, Sialkot, Ludhiana, Umballa, and Lahore. The United Provinces come next to the Punjab, with 7,000 deaths. Last week there was a reduction of 1,000 as compared with the preceding seven days.

*Report from Calcutta—Inspection of vessel—Decline in plague.*

Passed Assistant Surgeon Sprague reports April 14, as follows:

During the week ended April 9, 1904, bill of health was issued to steamship *Wilde Wildenfels* bound for Boston with a total crew of 64, of which 38 were Lascars, whose effects were disinfected. There were two rejections. The cargo compartments of the ship were fumigated for the destruction of vermin, and rat guards were kept on the wharf lines while she was at dock.

During the week ended April 9, 1904, there was a reduction, both in the cases and deaths from plague, of 7. This is thought to be the beginning in the decline which regularly occurs about this time. The maximum number of deaths is nearly 300 below that of last year. The efforts of the local health officers to destroy the infected dwellings and clear up the entire surrounding neighborhood are probably responsible for the reduction. All the infectious diseases are running lower than the average this year, and as the plague centers were also favorable to smallpox, cholera, and such diseases, it seems fair to give the work some credit. I am informed that the reduction of the cases of plague is most noticeable in the worst centers and that in other places they have slightly increased, but the reduction at the worst points is considered indicative of a general decline.

ITALY.

*Report from Naples—Inspection of vessels.*

Passed Assistant Surgeon Eager reports, April 16, as follows: During the week ended April 16, 1904, the following ships were inspected at Naples and Palermo:

NAPLES.

Date.	Name of ship.	Destination.	Steerage passengers inspected and passed.	Pieces of large baggage inspected and passed.	Pieces of baggage disinfected.	Number of steerage passengers recommended for rejection.
Apr. 11	Citta di Genoa .....	New York .....	1,380	120	1,530	17
13	Sicilia .....	New Orleans .....				
13	Lombardia .....	New York .....	841	55	1,155	20
14	Nekar .....	do .....	2,476	320	3,242	44
14	Germania .....	do .....	1,302	230	1,535	16
14	Republic .....	Boston .....	1,496	200	1,720	22

PALERMO.

Apr. 10	Napolitan Prince .....	New York .....	342	100	500	42
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